

Residential Tip Card for Swimming Pool, Spa, and Fountain Owners

FRONT

WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM



Clean Water Starts in Your Backyard

Information for Swimming Pool, Spa, and
Fountain Owners

Swimming pools, spas, and fountains are a great source of pleasure if maintained appropriately. Proper operation and maintenance of these systems is necessary to avoid polluting our local waterways and harming the plants and animals that live in them.

Water from pools, spas, and fountains may be discharged to storm drain systems (streets, gutters, curb inlets, etc.) only if the water:

- Is reduced to zero parts per million chlorine or bromine;
- Does not cause soil erosion; and
- Does not contain other pollutants such as algicides, acid wash, or high levels of salinity.

It is illegal to discharge filter backwash, acid wash, algicide-treated process water, and other chemical products to storm drain systems.

Whether you conduct your own work or someone does it for you, protecting the environment and complying with local regulations is your responsibility. You are responsible for the disposal practices of contractors working on your property. Be sure you know what your contractor is doing.

To report a stormwater violation or to learn more about keeping our waterways healthy and clean, call **(888) 846-0800**

or visit www.projectcleanwater.org/bmp/



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

BACK

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Draining Water

- Drain pool, backwash, and rinse water to the sanitary sewer whenever possible. Contact your sewer agency for restrictions or requirements.
- If your house is not connected to the sanitary sewer, consider the following:
 - Don't discharge to the septic system. This can eventually lead to system failure.
 - If your property has plenty of flat, fairly porous soil, discharge and allow water to seep into the ground. To minimize erosion, discharge water to a landscaped or rocky area.
 - If the property is on a steep hill or the soil drains very poorly, it's best to switch to a cartridge filter system.

Cleaning and Maintenance

- Regularly clean and maintain your pool, spa, or fountain to prevent algal growth.
- Maintain chemicals at proper levels, using only what you need. Follow the manufacturer's instructions when applying chemicals such as acid, disinfectants, or cleaners.
- Rinse cartridge filter elements onto a dirt area or into a container to settle out waste. Bag and dispose of the residue to a trash container.

For chemical and waste disposal options, visit www.wastefreesd.org or call **1 (877) R-1-EARTH**



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
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